



Government of the District of Columbia

D.C. Commission for Women
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2008

I. Call to Order

Stacey R. Long called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission for Women at 6:35 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 441 4th Street NW, Room 1112 South.

II. Attendees

The following persons were present: Niambi Jarvis, Towan Isom, Lauren Meigs, Chrissie Juliano, Marian Douglas-Ungaro, Cynthia Harrison, Gina Paige, Jennifer Grayson, Winona Lake Scott, Mioshi Moses, Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, Ali Holness, Shari Miles-Cohen, Tamba Stevenson, Reta Jo. Lewis.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes approved.

IV. Business

HARRIET TUBMAN SHELTER UPDATE

- Virtual Workforce Development Center (VWDC) – The D.C. Public Library donated computers in order to institute a VWDC at the Harriet Tubman Shelter. The Commission, partnering with the DC Library, will facilitate this donation. Currently, there is a problem with the warranties of the computers; therefore, the process of donation has been paused. Hopefully, the donation will be completed some time later this summer.

OUR PLACE, D.C. TOUR

- Niambi Jarvis, along with other government Directors, participated in a 2-hour tour of Our Place, D.C. and Camille's Place. Our Place, D.C. is interested in partnering with the Commission; therefore, the Commission's Public Health & Safety Committee will get in touch with the organization in order to facilitate introductions to resourceful contacts and organizations in the District.

D.C. WOMEN'S AGENDA – "LUNCH AND LEARN"

- Stacey Long provided an announcement about the D.C. Women's Agenda's upcoming "Lunch and Learn" on July 10, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. With the guidance of Susan Galbraith, Founder and President of Our Place, D.C., the meeting will provide a discussion entitled "Coming Home / A Woman's Journey from Prison to the Community" as well as a tour of the Our Place, D.C. Drop-In Center.

RECEPTION FOR WOMEN IN D.C. GOVERNMENT

- The time-frame for the Reception for Women in D.C. Government is currently under discussion. The Commission is hoping to incorporate the

reception with the Commission's 30th Anniversary in September. This reception will kick off a women's leadership series that facilitates female mentoring throughout the city in various work arenas.

COLLABORATION WITH D.C. WOMEN'S AGENDA AND WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

- Niambi Jarvis met with representatives from both the D.C. Women's Agenda and Washington Area Women's Foundation in order to discuss a new initiative that would attempt to undertake a gender audit of the District. In partnership with the Commission, these two organizations would like to establish a roundtable meeting as well as separate meetings with the individual program analysts and Directors of the various agencies in order to discuss this possibility. These meetings would attempt to locate and to fill the holes that are left by research groups when they do not objectify their data through a gender lens.
- Additionally, the D.C. Women's Agenda would like to partner with the Commission in order to establish a communications campaign which would call for pregnant women to receive HIV/AIDS testing in the District. A few possibilities have been tossed around, such as using the advertising space inside buses and metro trains. Hopefully, this campaign will take place in the Fall in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the Commission as well as the "2008 Well Women and Girls Conference in D.C."

MS. WHEELCHAIR AMERICA PROGRAM

- Niambi Jarvis provided a brief update on a conference call with Jeri Wasco, state coordinator of the Ms. Wheelchair D.C. program, as well as others in hopes of forming a partnership with the Commission in March 2009. Next spring, the Ms. Wheelchair America Program would like to establish a communications campaign about the importance of disability issues, especially pertaining to women. This opportunity would provide the Commission with a chance to partner with the Mayor's Office of Disability Services in an inter-governmental project. More information will be forthcoming much later this year.

"A POWERFUL NOISE" DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

- This Friday, June 20th, the Commission will be partnering with the women commissions in nearby Maryland counties in order to present the screening of an inspirational documentary, entitled "A Powerful Noise," at the SILVERDOCS film festival in Silver Springs, MD. Tickets are \$10.00, and the proceeds will go to CARE.
- Scott Thigpen, producer of the film, would like to partner with the Commission in order to show the film in the District. The screening of this documentary would coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Commission in September.
- Shari Miles-Cohen mentioned that Commissioners are invited to meet Nada, one of the main women in the documentary, in her office this Friday, June 20, at noon.

"2008 WELL WOMEN AND GIRLS CONFERENCE IN D.C."

- OWPI, in conjunction with the Commission, will be hosting a health-awareness conference in November 2008 entitled "2008 Well Women and

Girls Conference in D.C.” The conference will attempt to assess the health of women and girls in D.C. in four specific areas: Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS, Obesity, and Mental Health. This two-day conference will address the issues on the first day and then discuss solutions and resolutions on the second day. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. OWPI is working on finding a venue and solidifying the dates of the conference.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

- Reta J. Lewis, Chair of the Commission, introduced the election of new Commission officers.
- Cynthia Harrison nominated Stacey R. Long for the office of Vice Chair of the Commission. Gina Paige seconded the nomination. Stacey R. Long accepted the nomination. The Commission unanimously elected Stacey R. Long as Vice Chair of the Commission.
- Jennifer Grayson volunteered for the office of Secretary of the Commission. The Commission unanimously elected Jennifer Grayson as Secretary of the Commission.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Legislative**
 - o No updates.
- **PR**
 - o No updates.
- **Public Health & Safety**
 - o Stacey R. Long provided another reminder about the D.C. Women’s Agenda’s upcoming “Lunch and Learn.”
 - o Tambra Stevenson provided an update about the Commission’s Young Women’s Leadership Committee. The YWLC is hosting a Young Black Women’s Health Roundtable this Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Congressional Room located at the Omni Shoreham Hotel – 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, D.C.
- **International Affairs**
 - o The Commission will be partnering with the National Council of Negro Women in order to host 4 webcasts between women and girls in D.C. and women and girls in South Africa. Through the Tshwane, South Africa Sister City Committee partnership, the Commission hopes to increase mentoring opportunities and the female leadership pipeline between D.C. and South Africa.
- **Economic Development**
 - o The World Bank would like to partner with the Commission this fall during their annual meeting. They would like to host a meeting/conference where approximately 150-200 women business owners, through invitation, would participate in discussions concerning their businesses in D.C. This gathering would allow these women to expand the reach of their businesses locally, nationally, and globally. This opportunity may culminate in multi-jurisdictional partnerships with fellow Commissions on Women in Maryland and Virginia.
- **General Updates**
 - o The “Holding Her Head High: A Celebration of Motherhood” event was hosted by Janine Turner, Cathy Gillespie, and Susanna Quinn

on June 10, 2008. The recipient organizations of this event – My Sister’s Place and the Boys and Girls Club of America – each received a check for \$35,000.00. The Commission provided the event with a proclamation from the Mayor, which was well-received.

- Carol Schwartz’s Workforce Development Committee reception was held May 28, 2008 at her residence. 5 commissioners attended; therefore, the Commission was very well-represented.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JUNE 2008

- **“Young Women’s Black Health Roundtable”**
 - Thursday, June 19, 2008 – 6:30 p.m.
 - Omni Shoreham Hotel - 2500 Calvert Street NW - Washington, D.C.
- **“A Powerful Noise” Documentary Screening**
 - Friday, June 20, 2008, 5:15 p.m.
 - AFI Silver Theatre – 8633 Colesville Road – Silver Spring, MD 20910
- **National Summit on Women Veterans’ Issues**
 - Friday – Sunday, June 20 – 22, 2008
 - Westin Washington DC City Center - 1400 M Street, NW - Washington, DC, 20005

JULY 2008

- **D.C. Women’s Agenda’s “Lunch and Learn” - “Coming Home / A Woman’s Journey from Prison to the Community”**
 - Thursday, July 10, 2008, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - Sasha Bruce Youth Works – 741 8th Street SE – metro: Eastern Market

I. Adjournment

Reta Jo Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Tambra Stevenson; Minutes approved by: DCFW